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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>RC/09/09/02/SJ/WW</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Head of Economic and Social Regeneration</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715555</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Coronation Park – Heritage Lottery Fund Bid</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Committee to progress a bid to develop the Coronation Park, Port Glasgow via the Parks for People strand of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 7½ John Wood Street has been exploring the options to develop Coronation Park for some time. Their work began in November 2006 with the Community Futures programme and this was followed by a Community Action Plan for Port Glasgow in 2007. The redevelopment of Coronation Park was highlighted as a key priority for action by these initiatives.
- 2.2 The “Friends of Corrie Park” Action Group was established early in 2008 and the group has been continuing their work since that time. A more detailed report on the background to the group and the current situation is given in Appendix A.
- 2.3 The Parks for People Fund offers an opportunity to make some of the aspirations of the Corrie Park Action Group a reality.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Committee agrees in principle to the submission of a bid to the Parks for People Fund.
- 3.2 That Committee remits the Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources to explore match funding opportunities to assist the bid, and delegated authority to progress the bid to submission stage once the match funding is found.

Stuart Jamieson  
Head of Economic and Social Regeneration

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 More information on the background to the work that has been going on since 2006 to progress the development of Coronation Park has been given in Appendix A.
- 4.2 Further information on the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme can be found online at [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)
- 4.3 Match funding is a requirement of any application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Prior to finalising the bid, it is recommended that the Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources explore all opportunities to identify match funding. The amount that the project can bid for depends on the amount of match funding secured.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance:

### Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Appropriate rental agreement needs to be agreed

- 5.2 Human Resources: None.
- 5.3 Legal: none.
- 5.4 Equalities: Equalities issues will be considered as part of bid process.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 7½ John Wood Street and the Corrie Park Action Group have carried out extensive public consultation on this matter.

## 7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

## 1. Background and Timeline

In November 2006 Port Glasgow Regeneration Centre (otherwise known as 7 ½ John Wood Street) initiated the Community Futures development programme. This involved community wide research across Port Glasgow and was conducted in partnership with Inverclyde Council's Community Work department. Following extensive engagement with the community of the town, carried out between January and June of 2007 a Community Action Plan for Port Glasgow was developed. The process of engagement included:

- The establishment of a local community futures steering group to oversee the whole process
- 20 stakeholder interviews and meetings with different groups and individuals – typically lasting an hour each and involving a cross-section of local residents and businesses
- Local school involvement in a banner making project – visual representations of what young people of the town would like to see in it
- Community Views household survey – deliberately 'short and sweet' and sent out to every house in the town
- Preparing a community profile detailing known facts and figures about the community – quantitative information gathered to analyse the changing demographics of the town historically and to complement the qualitative views gathered from the interviews, meetings and survey
- A Community Futures event and fun day attended by over 500 people – to review and further contribute to the research carried out before producing the final draft of the Action Plan

Throughout the whole process the aim was to uncover what local people's views and opinions were of the town as it was, their vision for its future and what they considered to be priority issues to take action upon. It made a clear statement about local people think needs to be done and was formally launched in August 2007. The main priorities/needs identified were:

- Doing more for young people
- A town centre to use and be proud of
- Our parks, sport, play and recreation
- Our heritage, our river and our future
- Community Safety
- Developing care and services
- Building the strength of our communities

On completion of the Action Plan, Coronation Park was seen as a priority in the regeneration of Port Glasgow. Rejuvenating the park was identified as the top priority under the overall theme of improving recreational and play facilities within the town. Improving the park also has strong links with some of the other Action Plan themes e.g. 'doing more for young people', 'a town centre to use and be proud of' and 'our heritage, our river, our future'.

For that reason, in December 2007, a 'Recreation & Play Ideas Evening' was held in 7 ½ John Wood Street, providing an opportunity for local people to come along to talk about ways of improving the area, whilst exploring ways they could help in getting some of the things they had identified as priorities in the Action Plan. Following this, an action group was formed; this was to be a catalyst for turning the community's aspirations into a reality. Upon first establishing ownership of the park, assisted by Trish Godman MSP, the group carried out an initial SWOT analysis of the park, identifying its major strengths to be the park's location, views, slipway access to river and its current reasonable access. In early 2008 a 'Friends of Corrie Park' mailing list was established, this has been an evolving list, which now contains 104 individuals and organisations. During February/March 2008 two studies of the park were completed: Arch Henderson conducted an initial study of the harbour walls and slipway, reporting on what would be needed to maximise the use of the facility. They estimated at the time, full repair costs, to ensure structural stability, would be in the region of £202,000; Colin Roxburgh (STAR Development Group) was again commissioned by 7 ½ John Wood Street to carry out a feasibility study aimed at exploring how the community would take forward its desire to make more of the Coronation Park. It was anticipated this study was to be the first step in working towards the development of the park.

Throughout 2008 the group's profile has been raised through various activities, including:

- Local primary schools being involved in a logo competition, the winning logo is now used on all promotional material for the group. Pupils from St John's Primary School also picked the Coronation Park for a short project in which they consider an important local issue
- Community Futures bebo site being started to make young people aware of the group's activities
- Representatives of other local community groups joining 'Friends of ' and attending meetings e.g. Opening Up Port Glasgow, Comet group, The Old Men's Club, and Local Tenants & Residents groups
- Port Glasgow's Community Councils have also been made aware of the action group and their activities

In August 2008 tender documents were issued to Landscape Architects in order to attract a consultant to move redevelopment of the park on to a further stage. The overall intention was that the successful consultant would produce an outline design and costing for a scheme which has broad community support and which could then be presented within funding applications, David Wilson Associates became the appointed consultant in October.

## **2. Current Position**

To date David Wilson has not been brought on board to progress the project, however he is still keen to be involved in any future activities around the development of the park. Earlier this year 7 ½ John Wood Street carried out further community consultation, via a questionnaire issued throughout the town, to test out David Wilson's proposals and also to establish if and how the park is currently being used, results of which will follow. Initial analysis highlights the park is a well-used park despite the depth of feeling for improvements to its general condition.

The Corrie Park Action Group meet on a monthly basis and continue to be supported by 7 ½ John Wood Street within The Trust.

### **3. Vision**

Key elements of the vision emerging for the Coronation Park are:

Good access to the Park and Waterfront

- Easy to access and safe to use
- Key access point for Port Glasgow along the waterfront

Informal play, leisure and recreation

- Focus on developing informal play, leisure and recreation
- Not formal organised sports area

Waterfront Park

- Access to the Water as part of recreational opportunities
- Planting and landscaping in keeping with Waterfront location
- Celebration of Port Glasgow's heritage associated with the links to the River

Well Used, valued and attractive

- Broad Range of Users
- Shelter provided to encourage wet weather use
- Making a contribution to the health of the area
- Making a contribution to the regeneration of the area

The priorities for action which now need to be considered in order to progress the project to its next stage involve adopting a phased approach to any developments beginning with the production of sketch proposals and guideline costings, enlisting of a mixed design team with a wide range of skills to carry out the work. An overall aim that has emerged from research and consultation work so far is for the park to 'make sense' both as it relates to the town and river and as it works within itself. The main elements of this overall aim are:

- Consideration of the A8 and its relationship with both the park and the town.
- Consideration of how the slip and harbour walls that respectively join and separate the park from the river can be treated to improve access between the park and the shore to make the most of the park as a major asset to the town.
- Consideration of the existing park play areas to suggest how the play opportunities could be enhanced.
- The park as a whole to appeal to and be suitable for a wide age range and types of users.

Community Futures was initially set up to provide communities with an opportunity to not only think about but also be involved in the planning and taking action over issues they themselves have identified. As the community of Port Glasgow have been involved in the whole process up until now it is imperative that through the involvement of the action group, they stay involved in the actual development activities of the park. It is vital that the action group continue to be supported and their development and capacity be grown through taking forward their desire to make the most of one the town's most significant green spaces.

### **4. Potential Partner Roles and Responsibilities**

## Appendix A – Coronation Park – Heritage Lottery Fund Bid

Potential partners in any bid / development process are likely to include.

- Inverclyde Council
- The Trust
- Coronation Park Action Group
- Riverside Inverclyde
- Link Housing Association

### **Inverclyde Council**

Inverclyde Council currently own and maintains the park, any funding bids etc would therefore currently have to be undertaken by Council.

There is an apparent uncertainty around potential “common good” status of the Park, though this need not preclude any developments. The history of ownership reveals that the land was originally owned by Glasgow Corporation who bought it to establish the Harbour. This was eventually transferred into the Port Glasgow Harbour Trust, which passed the ownership of the land to the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of Port Glasgow in 1939. An enquiry to the Registers of Scotland confirms that “accordingly title to Coronation Park will now vest in Inverclyde Council as statutory successors to the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of Port Glasgow.”

Any developments of the park will require taking account of ongoing maintenance costs, which are currently met through Inverclyde Council.

Any bid to HLF Parks For People would require the preparation of a 10 Year Management and Maintenance Plan.

### **The Trust**

Through Port Glasgow Community Regeneration Centre, The Trust have been supporting and pursuing a regeneration agenda for the park for almost two years.

The Trust have a successful track record in sourcing, monitoring and managing external funding to maximise local opportunities. The organisation is currently running two successful HLF projects in Port Glasgow.

In previous discussions, The Trust has indicated it would like to explore the possibility of the park being leased to a community organisation such as themselves. This model of asset management has worked particularly successfully across the UK, as often more opportunities for funding are available to Third Sector organisations than local councils.

### **Coronation Park Action Group**

Port Glasgow Community Regeneration Centre supports the group. The group have been responsible for much of the grassroots work around canvassing local opinion / generating local interest in park regeneration. The group would be a vital local link in any application process and would anticipate being involved in an advisory capacity in any future developments. In other areas, such action groups have developed into “Friends Of...” organisations who take on some responsibilities for park maintenance. Glasgow City Council have actively pursued this option, with some of these groups then developing into small social enterprises.

### **Riverside Inverclyde**

RI has indicated an interest in being involved in any park regeneration programme.

Initial discussions focussed specifically on financial contributions. RI were prepared to pay the £10k to complete landscape architect consultation and drawings but only if there was a definite move towards an HLF bid.

RI also indicated there was a possibility of making a contribution towards Harbour Wall repair costs, likely to be a substantial part of any bid.

Since initial discussions in October 2008, RI have involved both Port Glasgow Community Regeneration Centre and Coronation Park Action Group in a variety of consultations with the potential to impact upon park development; most recently, the Town Centre Initiative bid.

### **Link Housing**

A National Organisation who took over the running of Port Glasgow Housing Association in 2008.

Link supported the Coronation Park programme through Wider Role funding.

The group have worked successfully on park redevelopments in other areas across Scotland, most specifically Petersburn Park in Lanarkshire.

## **5. Potential Options for Funding and Developments**

Inverclyde is currently defined as a priority area for Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and as such we have access to a designated Grants Officer for assistance, advice and support.

HLF operate a Parks for People programme which will fund from £250,000 - £5 million for park redevelopments.

The fund has two competitive application calls per year, March and September. Decisions are not taken out with this period, and so the only opportunity to make an application within 2009 will be for September.

It is generally accepted that a “Pre-application” is submitted to HLF before making a large scale application, this allows for a quick assessment of the suitability of the project. Given the September timescale, any pre-application would require to be undertaken quickly.

When submitting total project costs, it is understood that 25% will require to come from other sources either as in-kind or cash contributions. It is a requirement that of this, at least 5% comes directly from the resources of the applicant.

Potential HLF match funding opportunities;

### **Comet Project**

£180,000 has been set aside from Council Common Good funds to undertake a refurbishment of the Comet. As part of this refurbishment, the Comet could be relocated to Coronation Park. By linking these two projects, this Common Good fund contribution could be considered as match funding in a Parks For People bid.

This would not be without controversy, but no less controversial than having it sitting in Tesco car park. Crucially, it would strengthen the “heritage” elements of the park (a strong requirement for HLF funding) and allow it to be the centrepiece of the Comet festival once again held in Coronation Park.

A “snapshot poll” of how local people would feel about the Comet being part of a regenerated Coronation Park was undertaken with over 300 people at the Port Glasgow Bulb Show earlier in the year. 70% of respondents were in favour of the move.

### **Future Jobs Fund**

The Fund was announced in Budget 2009 and is to be spent over the next two years. It is a challenge fund that invites organisations to submit bids for funding. Inverclyde Council has a bid in place. The fund is run by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

The Fund aims to create 150,000 jobs. These will be aimed primarily at 18-24 year olds who have been out of work for a year. This will support the guarantee that from 2010 everyone in this age group who has been looking for work for a year will get an offer of a job or training lasting at least 6 months, and so we are keen to encourage bids from all areas across Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). We will also specifically target 50,000 jobs in unemployment hotspots and anticipate that around 10,000 of the 150,000 jobs created will be green jobs.

Any regeneration and redevelopment work in the park could be linked to this fund, creating employment opportunities while upgrading a vital civic space.

### **Questions**

Do the Council wish to pursue a pre-application for Parks For People?

Can the project be linked to the redevelopment of The Comet to maximise match-funding opportunities for an HLF bid?

How can the project be effectively linked to the Future Jobs Fund to ensure maximum employment opportunities for local young people?

Would the Council consider the option of leasing Coronation Park to The Trust in partnership with Coronation Park Action group?